In regard to the Text Book Committee, he said that the necessity of a Mahommedan member was keenly felt. The History of India by Mr. Mamman Mappilla prescribed for use in the higher grade vernacular schools contained gross misrepresentations of the life of the Holy Prophet. There were other instances also wherein the absence of a Mahommedan member in the above Committee caused much inconvenience. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to nominate a competent and popular gentleman who was well versed in Arabic, Malayalam and Tamil and also English to some extent, as a member of the Committee.

The Membr then thanked the Goverument for the concessions granted in connection with the Trivandrum Muslim Hostel, and hoped that the Government would sanction an increased grant to the institution.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry that you have not sent us a copy of your representation in advance or at least given us the points you were going to speak about. You refer to a good many things which require a good deal of consideration before a definite reply could be given. In regard to several matters dealt with by you, I have already given replies. In regard to the teaching of the Koran in schools, I have already given a reply to the representation made on the point by Mr. Taha Sahib. The other points will be considered.

150. Certain suggestions for improving the occupation of Kammalars.

Mr. N. Nilakantan Asari (Member, Nominated) said that from ancient times his community had distinguished themselves in the art of carpentry, that even at the present day there were persons in the community who excelled the most up-to-date Western engineer in the science of carpentry and that the ancient structures like the temple of Sri Padmanabhaswami and several other similar structures with their turrets and gopurams and works of art were standing monuments of the architectural skill and ingenuity of the Kammala community. The fact that such structures remained to this day unimpaired testifed to their substantial work. The skill and capacity of the Kammalars in the science of carpentry had also been borne testimony to by several important works of art turned out by them within the past seventy five years, such as the State golden chariot, the *Methan Mani* (Clock) in the Karivelappuramaligai and the Ivory throne sent to Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria about the year 1025 M. E. Several articles made in western countries with the help of machines were produced here easily by the Kammalars of the country by manual labour and such articles produced here were superior in make to the manufactured articles of the West. That went to show the skill and taste of the Kammalars in their science. If intelligent young men of the community were selected and sent to Western countries for training in advanced systems of architecture, carpentry, &c., they would prove a real asset to the country. The community would have taken the lead in the matter, but their extreme poverty stood in the way. The Member then exhibited a razor made by one of his community at Quilon and asserted that it excelled Western make in finish and excellence. It was an admitted fact that modern Engineers simply furnished plans of big buildings, bridges etc., but that their actual construction was attended to by the local Kammalars. The Member therefore prayed that two Kammala youths who had passed the School Final Examination, might be selected and sent for training to outside countries in carpentry, in machine making, etc., at the expense of Government.

The Member next said that it was widely known that the ivory work of the Trivandrum School of Arts was excellent and that the ivory carvers were all Kammalars. They were not decently paid with the result that they were having a beggarly existence. The Member prayed that their pay might be increased. He also suggested that the Head Maistries in the P. W. D. Workshops might be selected from his community as was the practice before.

In regard to the Carpentry school at Quilon, which the Member heard, was going to be abolished, he prayed that the school be not abolished but that it be made useful to his community. He urged that,

(1) provision should be made for teaching the science of carpentry (തച്ചുശാസ്ത്രം) in the school. There are duly qualified persons in the community to teach the science

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(2) Instruction should be imparted in the school in designing, estimating, surveying and levelling.

(3) Practical carpentry and cabinet making and also timber seasoning should be taught in the school.

(4) Students should be got trained in carpentry by sending them to places where substantial structural work is going on.

(5) Such carpentry schools should be established in all taluks.

(6) A member of the Kammalar community should be appointed as an Inspector of Industries.

(7) The curricula of studies should be so revised as to enable the students to read and write Malayalam and English.

(8) Successful candidates from the schools should be appointed as drawing masters in schools and as maistries in the P. W. Department. The certificates should enable them to get work in companies.

(9) Students coming from outside taluks should be given sufficient stipend to cover their boarding expenses.

Finally, the Member represented that two Kammala boys who had recently passed in carpentry examination were refused the appointment of തച്ചശാസ്ത്രിമേസ്തരൻ on the ground of *theendal*. That was a grievance and the Member prayed that they might be given suitable appointments.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will be considered.

151. Disabilities of converts from the depressed classes and suggestions for their removal.

Mr. Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated) first thanked the Dewan for the kind reference made by him in his opening Address regarding the depressed classes and assured him that the community would ever cherish with loving memory those words abounding with kindness and sympathy towards them. Proceeding to his subject, the Member said, that the pupils from the depressed classes were not benefited by the scholarships sanctioned by Government in the way the Government intended. The pupils were not able to study from Class V upwards in the vernacular schools on account of poverty. In respect of English education also, the pupils of the depressed classes were not getting substantial help. As a knowledge of English was essential to every one now, the Member prayed that all pupils in the State from their community should be permitted to study in all English schools up to Form IV without fees just as they were allowed to study up to Class IV in the vernacular schools without fees. Intelligent and deserving pupils wishing to proceed to higher studies should be given adequate help from Government. English education up to Form IV should be made compulsory. In conclusion, the Member prayed that orders might be issued to all heads of departments to give sympathetic attention to the needs and prayers of members from depressed classes.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will be considered.

The Assembly adjourned at 6. 35 P. M.

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